**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

Read the following description of the Bonus Army and answer the questions that follow.

The cause for the events in the summer of 1932 can be traced back to the return of American veterans from World War I in 1919. During the 1920s, American soldiers petitioned Congress for monetary recognition of the sacrifices they made as participants in the First World War. Angered by the dramatic difference in pay earned by civilians working in domestic military jobs and soldiers serving in the military, the millions of veterans secured the payment of a “bonus” recognizing service to their country. Set to be paid in 1945, the Adjusted Compensation Act of 1924, or “Bonus Bill” by its supporters, promised that all veterans would be paid $1.00 for every day of service within American borders and $1.25 per day for service overseas. All veterans who were eligible for more than fifty dollars of bonus were issued Bonus Certificates redeemable beginning in 1945, while those eligible for less than fifty dollars of bonus money were immediately paid in cash. Although a major victory for those who served their country, the delayed payment was a concern for some and these concerns became valid with the start of the Great Depression in 1929.

Reacting directly to the declining economic environment of the Great Depression was former World War I veteran Walter W. Waters. Recently unemployed, Walters felt that Veterans could become an imposing lobbying tool as the United States Congress debated a bill calling for the immediate payment of their World War I bonuses. The bill could immediately provide hundreds of dollars to veterans, rather than a decade later. Beginning in early 1932, Waters organized unemployed veterans in and around his Portland, Oregon home for a cross-country march on the nation’s capital. Playing off of the American Expeditionary Force, Waters and his followers nicknamed themselves the Bonus Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) and began their eighteen-day trek across the nation to demand an immediate payment of their bonuses. Newspapers quickly picked up on the emerging story of the Bonus Army and Waters gained followers from across the country.

The target of the marchers was the United States Congress where an annually introduced bill by Congressman Wright Patman of Texas called for the immediate payment of the Bonus promised in 1924. In order to meet the veteran’s demands, the federal government would need to provide four billion dollars beyond the existing contents of the bonus trust fund. This would exceed the entire federal budget for the year 1932 and was considered by many to be fiscally irresponsible – particularly given that Congress desired to eliminate deficit spending and the expanding the federal debt. Despite opposition from both political parties, as well as a reluctant President Hoover, Waters and his followers set out to pressure Congress.

By Memorial Day of 1932, the first part of the Bonus Army arrived in Washington and set up camps in areas designated by the district’s police chief, Pelham Glassford. Glassford, a veteran himself, secured condemned government buildings (with President Hoover’s approval) several blocks from the White House and space on the Anacostia Flats, across the river from the capital. In addition, he worked to provide food and water for the marchers. Walter Waters responded to the accommodations provided by Chief Glassford by imposing military style discipline on the Bonus marchers encamped in the nation’s capital. Drinking, freeloading, and radical talk were strictly forbidden and military police patrolled the compound. The marchers were openly opposed to any communist or radical elements within the B.E.F. and at one point had to be corralled by the D.C. police force to stop the public beatings of communists caught attempting to stir up trouble amongst the marchers.

Families, which accompanied many of the Bonus Marchers, provided many of the trappings of a regular town. A newspaper was published, library established, and nightly entertainment was provided to help ease the frustrations of the camps’ inhabitants as well as distract from the boredom. By early June of 1932 the encampment on Anacostia flats was the largest Hooverville in the United States and provided a constant worry for President Hoover and other government officials. The growing collection of protesters demonstrated their collective will and ability to gain attention when 8,000 veterans marched down Pennsylvania Avenue (the street that connects the Capital Building to the White House) on June 7th.

On June 15, the House of Representatives approved the Patman Bill. On June 17, the United States Senate voted to reject the Patman Bill. At this time many of the marchers left the capital headed home or in search of work. Many were assisted by $100,000 appropriated by the Congress on the request of President Hoover, which paid for train trips home. Despite the thinning of numbers and failure in the halls of Congress between 10,000 and 15,000 marchers remained encamped in Washington willing to continue their efforts. Frustration and boredom soon set in and were exacerbated by oppressive summer heat, declining food quality, water born diseases, and a small but vocal element of radicals pushing for more drastic efforts to draw attention to the veterans’ plight.

After much internal discussion, the federal government, in cooperation with the DC municipal government, agreed that the Bonus Army would be removed from the condemned buildings they had been allowed to occupy in the Federal Triangle. June 28th was established as the date for their eviction and leaders of the army were informed. On the morning of the 28th Police Chief Glassford and his force moved in to remove the troops and escort them across the 11th Street Bridge to the encampment on the Anacostia Flats. Agitated by some of the more radical elements within the remaining marchers, bricks were thrown at the police and a brief but intense struggle ensued.

1. **What was the Bonus Bill?**
2. **Who was Walter W. Waters and what did he do?**
3. **How were the Bonus Marchers treated in Washington DC?**
4. **What was life like for the Bonus Marchers?**
5. **What was the ultimate outcome of the Bonus Marcher’s efforts?**

**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

|  |
| --- |
| **Underline information that helps to explain the fate of the Bonus Marchers such as what happened to them, why it was done, who was responsible, and any other pertinent information.** |

**Source 1:**

**This telegram was sent during the height of the Bonus March on the day of their forced removal.**

Washington, D. C.   
July 28, 1932  
2:55 P.M.  
  
TO: General Douglas MacArthur, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army.  
  
The President has just informed me that the civil government of the District of Columbia has reported to him that it is unable to maintain law and order in the District.

You will have United States troops proceed immediately to the scene of disorder. Cooperate fully with the District of Columbia police force which is now in charge. Surround the affected area and clear it without delay.

Turn over all prisoners to the civil authorities.

In your orders insist that any women and children who may be in the affected area be accorded every consideration and kindness. Use all humanity consistent with the due execution of this order.

PATRICK J. HURLEY

Secretary of War

**From:** [**http://www.ecommcode.com/hoover/hooveronline/text/2.html**](http://www.ecommcode.com/hoover/hooveronline/text/2.html)

**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

|  |
| --- |
| **Underline information that helps to explain the fate of the Bonus Marchers such as what happened to them, why it was done, who was responsible, and any other pertinent information.** |

**Source 2:**

**This Presidential Press Release was issued on July 29, 1932, and was delivered the day after the Bonus Army was forcibly removed from Washington.**

July 29, 1932  
  
The President said:  
  
"A challenge to the authority of the United States Government has been met, swiftly and firmly.

"After months of patient indulgence, the Government met overt lawlessness as it always must be met if the cherished processes of self-government are to be preserved. We cannot tolerate the abuse of Constitutional rights by those who would destroy all government, no matter who they may be. Government cannot be coerced by mob rule.

"The Department of Justice is pressing its investigation into the violence which forced the call for Army detachments, and it is my sincere hope that those agitators who inspired yesterday's attack upon the Federal authority may be brought speedily to trial in the civil courts. There can be no safe harbor in the United States of America for violence.

"Order and civil tranquility are the first requisites in the great task of economic reconstruction to which our whole people now are devoting their heroic and noble energies. This national effort must not be retarded in even the slightest degree by organized lawlessness. The first obligation of my office is to uphold and defend the Constitution and the authority of the law. This I propose always to do."

**From:** [**http://www.ecommcode.com/hoover/hooveronline/text/76.html**](http://www.ecommcode.com/hoover/hooveronline/text/76.html)

**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

|  |
| --- |
| **Underline information that helps to explain the fate of the Bonus Marchers such as what happened to them, why it was done, who was responsible, and any other pertinent information.** |

**Source 3:**

**Dwight Eisenhower, At Ease: Stories I Tell To Friends. 1967. A memoir published 26 years after the removal of the Bonus Army.**

As quickly as the order was announced to us, General MacArthur decided that he should go into active command in the field. . . I told him that the matter could easily become a riot and I thought it highly inappropriate for the Chief of Staff of the Army to be involved in anything like a local or street-corner embroilment. (Of course, this was no "street-corner" matter -- but it still did not require the presence of the Chief of Staff in the streets)\* General MacArthur disagreed, saying that it was a question of Federal authority in the District of Columbia, and because of his belief that there was "incipient revolution in the air," as he called it, he paid no attention to my dissent.

Instructions were received from the Secretary of War, who said he was speaking for the President, which forbade any troops to cross the bridge into the largest encampment of veterans, on the open ground beyond the bridge.

These instructions were brought to the troop by Colonel Wright, Secretary of the General Staff, and then by General Mosely of the Assistant Secretary's office. In neither instance did General MacArthur hear these instructions. He said he was too busy and did not want either himself or his staff bothered by people coming down and pretending to bring orders.

**From: http://marchand.ucdavis.edu/lessons/bonusarmy/bonus\_army.html**

**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

|  |
| --- |
| **Underline information that helps to explain the fate of the Bonus Marchers such as what happened to them, why it was done, who was responsible, and any other pertinent information.** |

**Source 4:**

**Excerpt from General George Van Horn Moseley's unpublished autobiography, One Soldier's Journey. Gen. Moseley was Deputy Chief of Staff in 1932. The selection below was probably written between the years 1936 and 1938.**

Sometime after the troops had completed their mission on Pennsylvania Avenue, and before they crossed the Anacostia Bridge with the view of cleaning out the camp on the other side, Mr. Hurley, the Secretary of War, directed me to inform General MacArthur that the President did not wish the troops to cross the bridge that night, to force the evacuation of the Anacostia Camp. I left my office, contacted General MacArthur, and as we walked away, alone, from the others, I delivered that message to him and discussed it with him. He was very much annoyed in having his plans interfered with in any way until they were executed completely. After assuring myself that he understood the message, I left him. As I told him, I was only instructed to deliver the message to him, and having done that I returned to my office. Later I was asked from the White House if I had delivered the message, and assured that I had. Still later, I was instructed to repeat the message and assure myself that General MacArthur received it before he crossed the Anacostia Bridge. I sent Colonel Clement B. Wright, then Secretary to the General Staff, to repeat: the message to MacArthur, and explain the situation as I had it from the White House. Colonel Wright contacted General MacArthur immediately, and explained the situation to him fully. As I now recall, Colonel Wright reported to me that the troops had not crossed the Anacostia Bridge, but were advancing on, the bridge. In any event, General MacArthur went on with his plan, carrying it through, compelling the complete evacuation of the large Anacostia Camp, which held most of the veterans. A mission of this kind is a very disagreeable one for the Army, but it was executed with precision and efficiency, and entirely without bloodshed.

**From: http://marchand.ucdavis.edu/lessons/bonusarmy/bonus\_army.html**

**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

|  |
| --- |
| **Underline information that helps to explain the fate of the Bonus Marchers such as what happened to them, why it was done, who was responsible, and any other pertinent information.** |

**Source 5:**

**Douglas MacArthur’s Reminiscences, 1964. A Memoir published 32 years after the removal of the Bonus Army.**

For two fruitless months the (bonus marchers) lived in abject squalor making their daily marches to the Capitol, to the White House, and to all of the sacrosanct federal buildings where they hoped to loosen the purse strings of government. In the end, their frustration, combined with careful needling by the Communists, turned them in a sullen, riotous mob.

Through the month of June the tension mounted. . . . At night, morose men squatted by burning campfires listening silently to the endless speeches, always tinged with the increasing violence of Communist propaganda.

The (bonus march) was actually far deeper and more dangerous than an effort to secure funds from a nearly depleted federal treasury. The American Communist Party planned a riot of such proportions that it was hoped the United-States Army, in its efforts to maintain peace, would have to fire on the marchers. In this way, the Communists hoped to incite revolutionary action. Red organizers infiltrated the veteran groups and presently took command from their unwitting leaders.

As the violence increased, Pelham Glassford . . . twice consulted with me about calling on the Army for assistance. Both times I advised against it. But on July 28th the crisis was reached. A mob of 5,000 strong began to move up Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Treasury Building and the White House. The police were outnumbered five to one. Glassford was mauled and stripped of his police superintendent's gold badge, gunfire broke out, two men were killed, and a score or more badly injured. It was evident that the situation had gotten beyond the control of the local authorities.

Not a shot was fired, (by the federal troops). The sticks, clubs, and stones of the rioters were met only by tear gas and steady pressure. By 9:30 p.m. the area was cleared as far as the Anacostia Flats. The show of force, the excellent discipline of the troops, and the proper use of tear gas had turned the trick without serious bloodshed. At Anacostia Flats I received word from the Secretary of War, as we were in the midst of crossing the river, to suspend the operation at my discretion. I halted the command as soon as we had cleared the bridge, but at that moment the rioters set fire to their own camp. This concluded the proceedings for the night.

**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

|  |
| --- |
| **Underline information that helps to explain the fate of the Bonus Marchers such as what happened to them, why it was done, who was responsible, and any other pertinent information.** |

**Source 6:**

***The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover: Volume 3: 1929-1941, The Great Depression.* Macmillan Company, 1952. A memoir published 20 years after leaving office.**

Probably the greatest coup of all was the distortion of the story of the Bonus March on Washington in July 1932…Many Democratic speakers in the campaign of 1932 implied that I had murdered veterans on the streets of Washington.

The story was kept alive for twenty years. I, therefore, deal with it at greater length than would otherwise be warranted. As abundantly proved later on, the march was in considerable part organized and promoted by the Communists and included a large number of hoodlums and ex-convicts determined to raise a public disturbance…At my direction to Secretary of War Hurley, General Douglas MacArthur was directed to take charge. General Eisenhower (then Colonel [actually major]) was second in command. Without firing a shot or injuring a single person, they cleaned up the situation. Certain of my directions to the Secretary of War, however, were not carried out. Those directions limited action to seeing to it that the disturbing factions returned to their camps outside the business district. I did not wish them driven from their camps, as I proposed that the next day we would surround the camps and determine more accurately the number of Communists and ex-convicts among the marchers. Our military officers, however, having them on the move, pushed them outside the District of Columbia…

**“Revolution in the Air”: The Rout of the Bonus Army**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source 1: This telegram was sent during the height of the Bonus March on the day of their forced removal.**  **Why was the Bonus Army removed?**  **Who is responsible for the decision to remove the marchers?**  **What issues does your source present?** | **Source 2: This Presidential Press Release was issued on July 29, 1932, and was delivered the day after the Bonus Army was forcibly removed from Washington.**  **Why was the Bonus Army removed?**  **Who is responsible for the decision to remove the marchers?**  **What issues does your source present?** |
| **SOURCE 3: Source 3: Dwight Eisenhower, At Ease: Stories I Tell To Friends. 1967. A memoir published 26 years after the removal of the Bonus Army.**  **Why was the Bonus Army removed?**  **Who is responsible for the decision to remove the marchers?**  **What issues does your source present?** | **SOURCE 4: Source 4: Excerpt from General George Van Horn Moseley's unpublished autobiography, One Soldier's Journey. Gen. Moseley was Deputy Chief of Staff in 1932. The selection below was probably written between the years 1936 and 1938.**  **Why was the Bonus Army removed?**  **Who is responsible for the decision to remove the marchers?**  **What issues does your source present?** |
| **SOURCE 5: Source 5: Douglas MacArthur’s** *.****Reminiscences*, 1964. A Memoir published 32 years after the removal of the Bonus Army.**  **Why was the Bonus Army removed?**  **Who is responsible for the decision to remove the marchers?**  **What issues does your source present?** | **SOURCE 6: Source 6: *The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover: Volume 3: 1929-1941, The Great Depression.* Macmillan Company, 1952*.* A memoir published 20 years after leaving office.**    **Why was the Bonus Army removed?**  **Who is responsible for the decision to remove the marchers?** What issues does your source present? |

We believe the Bonus Army was forcibly removed from Washington because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_was responsible because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We believe the Bonus Army was forcibly removed from Washington because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was responsible because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Below is what your textbook has to say about the removal of the Bonus Army. Answer the following questions based on your analysis of the historical evidence. Be sure to use specific information form the historical sources we analyzed.

**The rout of the Bonus Army, according to *The Americans* textbook:**

*President Hoover decided that the Bonus Army should be disbanded. On July 28th, a force of 1,000 soldiers under the command of General Douglas MacArthur and his aide, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower, came to roust the veterans. In the course of the operation, the infantry gassed more than 1,000 people, including an 11-month old baby who died and an 8-year old boy who was partially blinded. Two people were shot and many were injured. Most Americans were stunned and outraged at the government’s treatment of the veterans. Once again, President Hoover’s image suffered, especially damaging in an election year.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How accurate is the textbook’s version of the events surrounding the rout of the Bonus Army?** | **What historical evidence should be mentioned/discussed/included as part of the textbook’s depiction of the events?** |
| **Should the textbook give greater emphasis on the perceived influence of communists on the decision to remove the Bonus Army? Based on what evidence?** | **What pieces of evidence should the writers of the textbook consider when trying to determine who was responsible for the rout of the Bonus Army?** |
| **What problems did the evidence present when**  **Determining who was responsible for the rout of the Bonus Army?** | **How should the textbook address the issue of the President’s orders to General Douglas MacArthur?** |

**Article by Paul Y. Anderson in The Nation, August 17, 1932. The dateline of the article was August 6, 1932. The Nation was one of the most liberal/progressive magazines of the time period.**

Excepting a small unit of Communists, which the main body promptly outlawed, the behavior of the men was characterized by extraordinary discipline and restraint. To one who visited their camps many times and talked to scores of them, any suggestion that they constituted a threat against the government is preposterous.

Even the Communist gestures were confirmed mainly to two futile attempts to parade before the White House, which got them nothing but broken heads, jail sentences, and fines. The attitude of the great majority was one of good-humored and patient fortitude under incredibly primitive conditions of existence. In a thousand ways they exhibited the instinct to make comedy out of their own vicissitudes -- an instinct as characteristic now as it was in France...

Save for the feeble gestures of the isolated Communist group there was no trouble until that fatal Thursday, due in part to the remarkable tact and common sense of General Glassford, the chief of police, in part to the discipline enforced by the leaders of the camps, and in part to the essentially law-abiding instincts of the men themselves.

But suddenly someone high in authority decided the government must have immediate possession of the partially razed block bounded by Third and Fourth Streets and Pennsylvania and Missouri Avenues, where about 1,500 were existing in abandoned buildings and makeshift buts. Instructions went from the Treasury to the District commissioners to have the police evict the squatters. On two occasions Glassford convinced the commissioners that the police had no authority to conduct such evictions, and pointed out that the procedure for eviction is definitely prescribed by law. On Wednesday there was a conference at the White House attended by Hurley, Attorney-General Mitchell, and General Douglas MacArthur, chief of staff of the army. On Thursday morning Glassford was informed that Treasury agents would begin evacuation of a part of the block, and that if anyone resisted eviction he was to be arrested for disorderly conduct. This meant that the actual eviction would be done by the police, and so it worked out. Someone had devised a technicality for getting around the law. Glassford's protests were unavailing. It was obvious that irresistible pressure had been applied to the commissioners.

One building was emptied with little difficulty of all but one occupant -- a legless veteran whom Glassford permitted to remain until the Veterans' Bureau could take care of him. An hour later, at noon, three men, one carrying a large American flag, started a march across the block, followed by several hundred. When the leaders encountered a policeman he grabbed the flag. There was a scuffle, and one of the marchers was hit on the head with a nightstick. He wrested it from the officer and struck back. Other policemen rushed toward the spot, and there was a shower of bricks from the marchers in the rear. I was standing about forty feet away, and it looked like an ugly mess, but the cops kept their heads and no shots were fired. Glassford dashed into the heart of the melee, smiled when a brickbat hit him in the chest, and stopped the fighting in a few seconds. Within two minutes the veterans were cheering him lustily. Two policemen had been badly hurt by thrown bricks, and several veterans were bleeding from the clubbing they had received and from accidental hits from

 From: <http://marchand.ucdavis.edu/lessons/bonusarmy/bonus_army.html>